(b) if so, whether any talks have been held between the two Governments in this regard; and

(c) the outcome of the talks and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the meeting of the 10th Session of the Joint Commission between Iran and India held in February, 1999, it was agreed that a joint team of Indian, Iranian and other third party firms would undertake a feasibility study of the Natural Gas Pipeline from Iran to India. Subsequently, discussions were held in June, 1999 and September, 1999 between National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) and Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL). During the discussions, it has been agreed that a tripartite meeting involving NIGC, GAIL and Gazprom of Russia would be useful to have a better understanding on the feasibility of the Project.

Modernisation of OIL Refineries

373. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister os PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) modernisation and diversification plan finalised by IOC for various refineries on account of free market economy;

(b) the status of their implementation along with finalised outlays, Commisson target and new plan, if any, refinery-wise;

(c) the details of various HRD programmes and employment policies finalised and implemented to cope up with the present day requirements, refinery-wise; and

(d) the laocation-wise status of exisiting and proposed petroleum training schools in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has drawn up its plan for diversification into Petrochemicals and power utilising the product streams available in its refineries. The details are given below:—

SI. No	Name of the Project	Project Cost (Rs.)	Commissioning Target
1	2	3	4
1.	Production of MTBE at Gujarat Refinery	36.0 Crores	Commissioned in Sept., 99

2.	Production of Butene-1 at Gujarat Refinery	44.5 crores	Jan., 2001
3.	Production of Propylene at Panipat Refinery	45.35 crores	June, 2000
4.	DME project for India	4000 crores	42 months after final approval
5.	Production of Para-Xylene/PTA at Panipat	4228 crores	March, 2003
6.	Production of LAB at Gujarat	1096 crores	36 months from final approval
7.	Power project at Panipat Capacity: 301 MW	1528 crores	33 months from final approval
8.	Power Project at Savli, Gujarat Capacity: 500 MW	1670 crores	33 months after final approval

2. IOC has developed a broad based modernisation and diversification plan to meet the challenges of free market economy in respect of its seven refineries, for improving distillate yield, product quality, energy utilisation, advanced process control in process units and automation of off-site facilities.

(c) A number of training programmes have been planned and conducted in the field of Information Technology, Enterprises Resources Planning (ERP), Systems Application & Process (SAP), Innovative Strategies to Open Market, Hazard Operability Study (HAZOP), Refining Technology, Hydrocracker, Sulphur Recovery, Diesel Hydro De-Sulphurisation Technology, Catalytic Reforming Unit during the year 1999-2000.

In accordance with the Employment Policy of the Corporation, recruitment is done through open advertisement, campus recruitment at reputed institutions and through employment exchanges.

(d) Indian Oil Corporation is having training centres at Gurgaon (Haryana), Haldia (West Bengal), NOIDA (U.P.), Digboi (Assam), New Delhi, Mumbai, Vadodara (Gujarat Mathura (U.P.) Guwahati (Assam), Barauni (Bihar), Panipat (haryana), Faridabad (Haryana), Calcutta and Chennai.